

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7047

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 60TH ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 3, DECADE FOR ACTION TO
COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. SUMMARY: IN INFORMAL CONSULTATION ECOSOC PRESIDENT AKE
APPEALED ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP TO THE WEO'S
TO AVOID A CONTENTIOUS DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT AND TO FIND
A FORMULA FOR DEALING WITH THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION WHICH
WOULD PERMIT ALL STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE DECADE. HE SUGGESTED THE FORMULA CONTAINED IN
THE RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT CONSIDERED BY THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION. WEO SPOKESMEN GENERALLY SUPPORTED
HIS APPEAL FOR A NON-CONTENTIOUS DEBATE, POINTED OUT HOWEVER
THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FORMULA WAS CLEARLY
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UNACCEPTABLE, AND SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT

THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (AMBASSADOR MYERSON) REITERATED OUR POSITION OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 22, ECOSOC PRESIDENT AKE (IVORY COAST) CONVOKED THE WEO GROUP TO DISCUSS THE HANDLING OF THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AT THIS SESSION. PRESENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, GREECE, THE U.S., THE UK, BELGIUM, SPAIN, ITALY, THE FRG, THE NETHERLANDS, AND DENMARK.

3. AMBASSADOR AKE OPENED THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL INQUIRIES, HE WAS UNDERTAKING A ROUND OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THIS AGENDA ITEM. HE HAD MET YESTERDAY (APRIL 21) WITH THE AFRICAN GROUP AND WAS REPORTING TO THE WEO'S ON THEIR APPROACH. (THROUGHOUT THE MEETING AMBASSADOR AKE PRESENTED HIMSELF ALTERNATELY AS THE PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC, DESIROUS OF SMOOTH PROCEDURES, AND AS THE SPOKESMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP, PLEADING THEIR CAUSE.) HE SAID THAT THE AFRICANS WANTED THE DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM TO BE TRANQUIL AND WERE DEEPLY COMMITTEE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE DECADE AND OF THE 1978 GHANA CONFERENCE. HE SPECIFICALLY APPEALED FOR ALL DELEGATIONS TO BE RESTRAINED IN THEIR STATEMENTS. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT THE AFRICANS WERE DESIROUS OF OBTAINING UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR A RESOLUTION AND TO THIS END WERE THINKING ABOUT A RESOLUTION WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION (RESOLUTION 3379) ALONG THE LINES OF THE INDIRECT FORMULA USED AT THE RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING IN GENEVA.

4. THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT IN GENERAL HIS GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO THE REQUEST FOR A RESTRAINED DEBATE BUT THAT THE FRG MUST RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FORMULA HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE RESOLUTION APPROVED AT THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ZIONISM WAS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HE SAID THAT FRANCE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO ABSTAIN ON A RESOLUTION DEALING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THIS ITEM AND WOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY RESOLUTION THAT CONTAINED A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION 3379. HE SAID THAT FRANCE HAD EXPLAINED ITS POSITION AT THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION, THAT POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED.

5. AMBASSADOR AKE COMMENTED THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION HAD INDICATED TO HIM THAT THEY WERE PREPARED NOT TO

MENTION RESOLUTION 3379 EXPLICITLY. HE ASKED THE WEO GROUP TO PROPOSE AN ALTERNATE FORMULATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FORMULA WHICH HE, IN TURN, WOULD TRANSMIT TO THE AFRICAN GROUP. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO REFLECT ON THE APPEAL OF THE AFRICAN GROUP. HE SAID THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FORMULA WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE BUT THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SUGGEST A NEW WORDING, SINCE IT WAS UP TO THE ORIGINAL AUTHORS OF THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION TO COME UP WITH AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION. THE FRG REP ADDED THAT AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA WOULD BE ONE WHICH EXPLICITLY EXCLUDES ZIONISM FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE.

6. AMBASSADOR AKE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLICITLY EXCLUDE ZIONISM RESOLUTION, APPEALED AGAIN FOR NO PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS DURING THE DEBATE AND FOR A WEO ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION, AND CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THIS AFTERNOON'S SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WILL INDICATE THE GENERAL TONE OF THE DEBATE.

7. THE US REP (AMBASSADOR MYERSON) SAID THAT WE WOULD REPORT AKE'S COMMENTS. HE FELT IT ONLY FAIR TO MAKE THE US POSITION ON THIS ISSUE CLEAR, HOWEVER. HE SAID THAT WE EXPECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL WITH THE GOAL OF EXPLAINING THE REASONS WHY THE USG DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE. HE NOTED THAT THIS POSITION HAD BEEN CLEARLY STATED DURING THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGE IN THE USG POSITION. HE SAID THAT WE COULD SUPPORT THE APPEAL FOR A TRANQUIL DEBATE AND THAT OUR STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE PROVOCATIVE BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEAR. HE DID NOT WANT AMBASSADOR AKE TO GET A FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A CHANGE IN OUR BASIC POLICY.

8. THE GREEK REP SAID THAT THE POSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD DEPEND ON THE ACTUAL FORMULATION USED IN THE RESOLUTION. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, AMBASSADOR AKE SAID THAT A DRAFT RESOLUTION HAD NOT AS YET BEEN WRITTEN BUT THAT SEVERAL "INTERESTED COUNTRIES" WERE PLANNING TO DO SO. THE AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT THE TONE AND CONTENT OF STATEMENTS BY AFRICAN STATES IN THE COURSE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE WOULD BE A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION.

9. AMBASSADOR AKE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL TO THE WEO MEMBERS NOT TO REJECT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO AFRICA BECAUSE OF THIS ONE RESOLUTION. HE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE

OF ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO
AFRICAN STATES AND SAID THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICS
INTO THIS ISSUE WAS DISTURBING TO MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
FINALLY, HE SAID THAT THE AFRICAN GROUP MAY TRY TO FIND
A MORE ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR USE IN A RESOLUTION.
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